

NAVY PROGRAMS

VXX Presidential Replacement Helicopter Program

The VXX will be the primary Presidential vertical lift platform employed by Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1). With the added emphasis on rapid and reliable Presidential lift and additional requirements in response to current world conditions, a fielded replacement to the VH-3 is sought by 2008. The VXX program will use a spiral acquisition strategy to field two increments of capability. The initial operational capability will be achieved after four Increment 1-configured aircraft are fielded with all required support equipment, training support, and publications. Increment 2 is intended to field 23 aircraft with a full operational capability, which will support all White House requirements. An analysis of alternatives determined that two helicopters have the potential to satisfy the requirements for the Presidential lift mission within the stated time constraints: the Sikorsky H-92 and the Lockheed Martin-Augusta Westland-Bell Helicopter Textron US101.

TEST & EVALUATION ACTIVITY

The VXX program is pre-Milestone B. The Operational Requirements Document, Test and Evaluation Master Plan, and Acquisition Strategy are currently being staffed. DOT&E is working with the White House and the Marine Corps to understand the requirements and ensure the testability of those requirements. DOT&E anticipates an operational assessment for Increment 1 in FY08 and an initial operational test and evaluation of Increment 2 capability in FY10. The program will be covered and a robust live fire test and evaluation will be a significant component of the testing of this aircraft.

TEST & EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

To field an initial operational capability by 2008, the VXX program will require an aggressive schedule. It is imperative that early operational assessments be incorporated in this program to assist in the early identification of issues and areas of risk.



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